CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   An article comprising:

2   a storage medium comprising machine-readable instructions stored thereon

3 to:

4   execute a software driver for a display codec, the software driver configured

5 to work with different display codecs at different periods of time while using a default

6 configuration of the software driver; and

7   transmit digital signals from the display codec to a display using the software

8 driver.

1   2. The article of claim 1 wherein the software driver comprises machine

2 readable instructions to recognize each of a plurality of displays.

1   3. The article of claim 2 wherein the plurality of displays consist of digital

2 displays selected from the group consisting of flat panel, LCD (liquid crystal display),

3 HDTV (high definition television), plasma, and a computer monitor.

1   4.   The article of claim 1 wherein the storage medium receives the digital

2 signals from a cable television outlet.

1   5.   The article of claim 1 wherein the storage medium receives the digital

2   signals from a satellite.

1   6.   The article of claim 1 wherein the storage medium receives the digital

2   signals from a wireless transmission device.

1   7.   A method comprising:

2   executing a software driver for a display codec to transmit digital signals from

3   the display codec to a display using the software driver, the software driver

4   configured to work with different display codecs at different periods of time while

5   using a default configuration of the software driver.

1   8.   The method of claim 7 wherein the software driver is part of a graphics

2   controller for communicating with the display codec.

1   9.   The method of claim 8 wherein the display codec comprises a

2   hardware portion that communicates with the software driver such that the graphics

3   controller recognizes each of a plurality of different display codecs at different

4   periods of time.

1   10.   The method of claim 8 where the software driver comprises a storage

2   medium for the graphics controller known as a universal software driver.

1   11.   A system comprising:

2   a processor;

3   a memory coupled to the processor to support the processor operations;

4   an Ethernet card interoperating with the processor and the memory for

5   network communications;

6   a display that communicatively couples with the processor through a display

7   codec to display images from image signals that are received at the system in a

8   digital format; and

9   a graphics controller having a software driver configured to work with different

10   display codecs at different periods of time while using a default configuration of the

11   software driver, the graphics controller being communicatively coupled to the

12   processor.

1   12.   The system of claim 11 wherein the software driver comprises a

2   universal software driver.

1   13.   The system of claim 11 wherein the display is a digital display.

1   14.   The system of claim 13 wherein the display is selected from the group

2   consisting of flat panel, LCD (liquid crystal display), HDTV (high definition television),

3   plasma, and a computer monitor.

1   15.   A graphics controller comprising a software driver configured to work

2   with different display codecs at different periods of time while using a default

3   configuration of the software driver.

1 16. The graphics controller of claim 15 wherein the software driver

2 comprises a universal software driver.

1 17. The graphics controller of claim 15 further comprising a storage

2 medium for the software driver that communicates with a display codec, the

3 software driver recognizing each of a plurality of display codecs.

1 18. A method comprising:

2 emulating a graphics controller having a universal software driver to allow the

3 graphics controller to communicatively couple with a first one of a plurality of display

4 codecs, the graphics controller operating with default settings.

1 19. The method of claim 18 further comprising emulating replacing the first

2 one of the plurality of display codecs with a second one of the plurality of display

3 codecs.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein said emulating replacing the first one

2 of the plurality of display codecs comprises replacing the first one of the plurality of

3 display codecs with an SDVO codec.